

(d) means to conduct DNA ploidy quantization of said selected individual atypical cells after said atypical cells are selected.

29. (Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said imaging apparatus comprises means to limit the individual selected atypical cells to be those which are the most suspect atypical cells from said cell population.

### REMARKS

Claims 18, 26, 28 and 29 have been amended consistent with issues raised in the Examiner's statement in the Advisory Action issued on December 23, 2002.

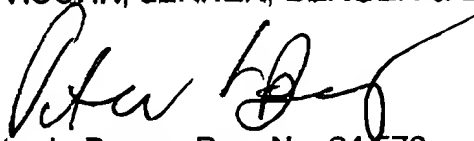
As to the comment that the prior does teach that which has been urged as novel, this again is respectfully traversed, and a telephone interview clarifying any outstanding issues would be welcome.

Simply stated, it is very important that the most atypical cells first be selected before doing a DNA ploidy analysis, because a DNA ploidy analysis, if done first, could eliminate cells which are cancerous and would, therefore, not be detected. It is critical that the atypical cells first be selected, and the further analysis is a DNA ploidy analysis conducted on only those cells selected as atypical cells or those most likely suspect.

As to those most likely suspect, such information is contained in the parent application from which these depend in which the conditions of most likely suspect cells are identified.

Respectfully submitted,

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**AMENDED CLAIM MARKED UP TO SHOW ALL THE CHANGES**

18. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the locations of said selected atypical cells are retrieved by said [computer] analytical apparatus for DNA ploidy analysis on a cell by cell basis.

26. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the location of said selected atypical cells are retrieved by said [completer] analytical apparatus for DNA ploidy analysis on a cell by cell basis.

28. (Twice Amended) A system to detect [likely] precancerous and cancerous cells in a cell population, said system comprising:

(a) brush means to collect said cell population,

(b) analytical apparatus comprising imaging apparatus for imaging said cell population,

(c) said imaging apparatus morphologically first selecting individual atypical cells from said cell population, and

(d) means to conduct DNA ploidy quantization of said selected individual atypical cells after said atypical cells are selected.

29. (Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein said imaging apparatus comprises means to [select] limit the individual selected atypical cells to be those which are the most suspect atypical cells from said cell population.